

We Claim:

1. A method of managing ideas, comprising the steps of:

(a) maintaining a computer database for accumulating ideas for prospectively patentable inventions, wherein said ideas include needs and/or requirements of said inventions;

(b) systematically establishing contractual obligations by contributors of said ideas to said database to transfer property rights to inventions respectively derived at least in part from said contributed ideas to transferees other than contributors of ideas of needs and/or requirements of said respectively derived inventions; and

(c) prior to filing any patent applications for inventions respectively derived at least in part from said accumulated ideas, systematically publishing said accumulated ideas.

2. A method of managing ideas, comprising the steps of:

(a) maintaining a computer database for accumulating ideas for prospectively patentable inventions, wherein said ideas include needs and/or requirements of said inventions; and

(b) systematically establishing contractual obligations by contributors of said ideas to said database to transfer property rights to inventions respectively derived at least in part from said contributed ideas to transferees other than contributors of ideas of needs and/or requirements of said respectively derived inventions;

wherein the respective contractually obligated contributors generally are not employees of a proprietor of said database or employees of a party in concert with said

proprietor.

3. A method of managing ideas, comprising the steps of:

(a) maintaining a computer database for accumulating ideas for prospectively

5 patentable inventions; and

(b) providing contingent contractual rights to given said inventions in a marketable format.

4. A method of managing ideas, comprising the steps of:

10 (a) maintaining a computer database for accumulating ideas for prospectively patentable inventions; and

(b) marketing contingent contractual rights to given said inventions.

5. A method of managing ideas, comprising the steps of:

15 (a) maintaining a computer database for accumulating ideas for prospectively patentable inventions;

(b) systematically establishing contractual obligations by contributors of said ideas to said database to transfer property rights to inventions respectively derived at least in part from said contributed ideas to a proprietor of said database or to a party in concert

20 with said proprietor; and

(c) prior to filing any patent applications for inventions respectively derived at least in part from said accumulated ideas, systematically publishing said accumulated ideas.

6. A method of managing ideas, comprising the steps of:

(a) maintaining a computer database for accumulating ideas for prospectively patentable inventions; and

(b) systematically establishing contractual obligations by contributors of said ideas to said database to transfer property rights to inventions respectively derived at least in part from said contributed ideas to a proprietor of said database or to a party in concert with said proprietor;

wherein the respective contractually obligated contributors generally are not employees of a proprietor of said database or employees of a party in concert with said proprietor.

7. A method of managing ideas, comprising the steps of:

(a) maintaining a computer database for accumulating ideas for prospectively patentable inventions, wherein said ideas are systematically accumulated prior to filing any patent applications for inventions respectively derived at least in part from said accumulated ideas;

(b) systematically enabling persons, whom have not entered into a membership as a prerequisite for viewing ideas in said database, to view a given accumulated idea not respectively contributed by a said person immediately subsequent to accumulation of said given idea; and

(c) systematically establishing contractual obligations by contributors of said ideas to said database to transfer property rights to inventions respectively derived at least in part from said contributed ideas to a proprietor of said database or to a party in concert

with said proprietor.

8. A method of managing ideas, comprising the steps of:

5 (a) maintaining a computer database for accumulating ideas for prospectively patentable inventions, wherein said ideas include needs and/or requirements of said inventions and are systematically accumulated prior to filing any patent applications for inventions respectively derived at least in part from said accumulated ideas;

10 (b) systematically enabling persons, whom have not entered into a membership as a prerequisite for viewing ideas in said database, to view a given accumulated idea not respectively contributed by a said person immediately subsequent to accumulation of said given idea; and

15 (c) systematically establishing contractual obligations by contributors of said ideas to said database to transfer property rights to inventions respectively derived at least in part from said contributed ideas to transferees other than contributors of ideas of needs and/or requirements of said respectively derived inventions; and

9. A method of managing ideas, comprising the steps of:

(a) maintaining a computer database for accumulating ideas for prospectively patentable inventions; and

20 (b) systematically enabling persons, whom have not entered into a membership as a prerequisite for viewing ideas in said database, to view a given accumulated idea not respectively contributed by a said person only after an established period of time subsequent to accumulation of said given idea.

10. A method of managing ideas, comprising the steps of:

(a) maintaining a computer database for accumulating ideas for prospectively patentable inventions, wherein said ideas are systematically accumulated prior to filing any patent applications for inventions respectively derived at least in part from said accumulated ideas; and

(b) systematically enabling persons, whom have not entered into a membership as a prerequisite for viewing ideas in said database, to view a given accumulated idea not respectively contributed by a said person immediately subsequent to the filing of a patent application for an invention derived at least in part from said given accumulated idea.

11. A method of managing ideas, comprising the steps of:

(a) maintaining a computer database for accumulating ideas for prospectively patentable inventions, wherein said ideas are systematically accumulated prior to filing any patent applications for inventions respectively derived at least in part from said accumulated ideas; and

(b) systematically enabling persons, whom have not entered into a membership as a prerequisite for viewing ideas in said database, to view a given accumulated idea not respectively contributed by a said person only after an established period of time subsequent to the filing of a patent application for an invention derived at least in part from said given accumulated idea.

12. A method of managing ideas, comprising the steps of:

(a) maintaining a computer database for accumulating ideas for prospectively patentable inventions, wherein said ideas are systematically accumulated prior to filing any patent applications for inventions respectively derived at least in part from said accumulated ideas;

(b) systematically enabling persons, whom have entered into a membership as a prerequisite for contributing ideas to said database and/or for viewing said accumulated ideas, to view a given accumulated idea not respectively contributed by a said person immediately subsequent to accumulation of said given idea; and

(c) systematically establishing contractual obligations by contributors of said ideas to said database to transfer property rights to said respectively derived inventions to a proprietor of said database or to a party in concert with said proprietor;

wherein the respective contractually obligated contributors generally are not employees of a proprietor of said database or employees of a party in concert with said proprietor.

13. A method of managing ideas, comprising the steps of:

(a) maintaining a computer database for accumulating ideas for prospectively patentable inventions; and

(b) systematically enabling persons, whom have entered into a membership as a prerequisite for contributing ideas to said database and/or for viewing said accumulated ideas, to view a given accumulated idea not respectively contributed by a said person only after an established period of time subsequent to accumulation of said given idea.

14. A method of managing ideas, comprising the steps of:

(a) maintaining a computer database for accumulating ideas for prospectively patentable inventions, wherein said ideas are systematically accumulated prior to filing any patent applications for inventions respectively derived at least in part from said accumulated ideas; and

(b) systematically enabling persons, whom have entered into a membership as a prerequisite for contributing ideas to said database and/or for viewing said accumulated ideas, to view a given accumulated idea not respectively contributed by a said person immediately subsequent to the filing of a patent application for an invention derived at least in part from said given accumulated idea.

15. A method of managing ideas, comprising the steps of:

(a) maintaining a computer database for accumulating ideas for prospectively patentable inventions, wherein said ideas are systematically accumulated prior to filing any patent applications for inventions respectively derived at least in part from said accumulated ideas; and

(b) systematically enabling persons, whom have entered into a membership as a prerequisite for contributing ideas to said database and/or for viewing said accumulated ideas, to view a given accumulated idea not respectively contributed by a said person only after an established period of time subsequent to the filing of a patent application for an invention derived at least in part from said given accumulated idea.

16. A method of managing ideas, comprising the steps of:

(a) maintaining a computer database for accumulating ideas for prospectively patentable inventions;

(b) enabling persons, whom have entered into a membership as a prerequisite for contributing ideas to said database and/or for viewing said accumulated ideas, to view a given accumulated idea not respectively contributed by a said person only subsequent to consummation of a respective nondisclosure agreement pertaining to said given accumulated idea; and

(c) systematically enabling persons, whom have entered into a membership as a prerequisite for contributing ideas to said database and/or for viewing said accumulated ideas, to view a given accumulated idea not respectively contributed by a said person immediately subsequent to the filing of a patent application for an invention derived at least in part from said given accumulated idea.

17. A method of managing ideas, comprising the steps of:

(a) maintaining a computer database for accumulating ideas for prospectively patentable inventions;

(b) enabling persons, whom have entered into a membership as a prerequisite for contributing ideas to said database and/or for viewing said accumulated ideas, to view a given accumulated idea not respectively contributed by a said person only subsequent to consummation of a respective nondisclosure agreement pertaining to said given accumulated idea; and

(c) systematically enabling persons, whom have not entered into a membership as a prerequisite for viewing ideas in said database, to view a given accumulated idea not respectively contributed by a said person immediately subsequent to the filing of a patent application for an invention derived at least in part from said given accumulated idea.

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18. A method of managing ideas, comprising the steps of:

(a) maintaining a computer database for accumulating ideas for prospectively patentable inventions;

(b) enabling persons, whom have entered into a membership as a prerequisite for contributing ideas to said database and/or for viewing said accumulated ideas, to view a given accumulated idea not respectively contributed by a said person and/or to contribute ideas related to said given accumulated idea only subsequent to consummation of a respective joint inventor agreement pertaining to said given accumulated idea; and

(c) systematically enabling persons, whom have entered into a membership as a prerequisite for contributing ideas to said database and/or for viewing said accumulated ideas, to view a given accumulated idea not respectively contributed by a said person immediately subsequent to the filing of a patent application for an invention derived at least in part from said given accumulated idea.

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19. A method of managing ideas, comprising the steps of:

(a) maintaining a computer database for accumulating ideas for prospectively patentable inventions;

(b) enabling persons, whom have entered into a membership as a prerequisite for contributing ideas to said database and/or for viewing said accumulated ideas, to view a given accumulated idea not respectively contributed by a said person and/or to contribute ideas related to said given accumulated idea only subsequent to consummation of a
5 respective joint inventor agreement pertaining to said given accumulated idea; and

(c) systematically enabling persons, whom have not entered into a membership as a prerequisite for viewing ideas in said database, to view a given accumulated idea not respectively contributed by a said person immediately subsequent to the filing of a patent application for an invention derived at least in part from said given accumulated idea.

10 20. A method of managing ideas, comprising the steps of:

(a) maintaining a computer database for accumulating ideas for prospectively patentable inventions;

15 (b) enabling persons, whom have entered into a membership as a prerequisite for contributing ideas to said database and/or for viewing said accumulated ideas, to view a given accumulated idea not respectively contributed by a said person and/or to contribute ideas related to said given accumulated idea only subsequent to consummation of a respective agreement not to file, without permission of a proprietor of said database, a patent application for any invention related to said given accumulated idea until after an
20 established period of time subsequent to accumulation of said given idea.

21. A method of managing ideas, comprising the steps of:

(a) maintaining a computer database for accumulating ideas for prospectively patentable inventions;

(b) enabling persons, whom have entered into a membership as a prerequisite for contributing ideas to said database and/or for viewing said accumulated ideas, to view a given accumulated idea not respectively contributed by a said person and/or to contribute ideas related to said given accumulated idea only subsequent to consummation of a respective agreement to disclose the identity of any third-party sources of ideas contributed by said person that are related to said given accumulated idea; and

(c) systematically enabling persons, whom have entered into a membership as a prerequisite for contributing ideas to said database and/or for viewing said accumulated ideas, to view a given accumulated idea not respectively contributed by a said person immediately subsequent to the filing of a patent application for an invention derived at least in part from said given accumulated idea.

22. A method of managing ideas, comprising the steps of:

(a) maintaining a computer database for accumulating ideas for prospectively patentable inventions;

(b) enabling persons, whom have entered into a membership as a prerequisite for contributing ideas to said database and/or for viewing said accumulated ideas, to view a given accumulated idea not respectively contributed by a said person and/or to contribute ideas related to said given accumulated idea only subsequent to consummation of a

respective agreement to disclose the identity of any third-party sources of ideas contributed by said person that are related to said given accumulated idea; and

(c) systematically enabling persons, whom have not entered into a membership as a prerequisite for viewing ideas in said database, to view a given accumulated idea not
5 respectively contributed by a said person immediately subsequent to the filing of a patent application for an invention derived at least in part from said given accumulated idea.

23. A method of managing ideas, comprising the steps of:

(a) maintaining a computer database for accumulating ideas for prospectively
10 patentable inventions; and

(b) enabling persons, whom have entered into a membership as a prerequisite for contributing ideas to said database and/or for viewing said accumulated ideas, to view a given accumulated idea not respectively contributed by a said person and/or to contribute ideas related to said given accumulated idea only subsequent to consummation of a
15 respective agreement to disclose the identity of any third-party sources of ideas contributed by said person that are related to said given accumulated idea;

wherein the persons obligated by said agreement generally are not employees of a proprietor of said database or employees of a party in concert with said proprietor.

20 24. A method of managing ideas, comprising the steps of:

(a) maintaining a computer database for accumulating ideas for prospectively patentable inventions;

(b) enabling persons, whom have entered into a membership as a prerequisite for contributing ideas to said database and/or for viewing said accumulated ideas, to view a given accumulated idea not respectively contributed by a said person and/or to contribute ideas related to said given accumulated idea only subsequent to consummation of a
5 respective agreement to disclose the identity of each inventor of any invention derived from ideas contributed by said person that are related to said given accumulated idea; and

(c) systematically enabling persons, whom have entered into a membership as a prerequisite for contributing ideas to said database and/or for viewing said accumulated ideas, to view a given accumulated idea not respectively contributed by a said person
10 immediately subsequent to the filing of a patent application for an invention derived at least in part from said given accumulated idea.

25. A method of managing ideas, comprising the steps of:

(a) maintaining a computer database for accumulating ideas for prospectively
15 patentable inventions;

(b) enabling persons, whom have entered into a membership as a prerequisite for contributing ideas to said database and/or for viewing said accumulated ideas, to view a given accumulated idea not respectively contributed by a said person and/or to contribute ideas related to said given accumulated idea only subsequent to consummation of a
20 respective agreement to disclose the identity of each inventor of any invention derived from ideas contributed by said person that are related to said given accumulated idea; and

(c) systematically enabling persons, whom have not entered into a membership as a prerequisite for viewing ideas in said database, to view a given accumulated idea not

respectively contributed by a said person immediately subsequent to the filing of a patent application for an invention derived at least in part from said given accumulated idea.

26. A method of managing ideas, comprising the steps of:

5 (a) maintaining a computer database for accumulating ideas for prospectively patentable inventions; and

(b) enabling persons, whom have entered into a membership as a prerequisite for contributing ideas to said database and/or for viewing said accumulated ideas, to view a given accumulated idea not respectively contributed by a said person and/or to contribute
10 ideas related to said given accumulated idea only subsequent to consummation of a respective agreement to disclose the identity of each inventor of any invention derived from ideas contributed by said person that are related to said given accumulated idea;

wherein the persons obligated by said agreement generally are not employees of a proprietor of said database or employees of a party in concert with said proprietor.

15 27. A method of managing ideas, comprising the steps of:

(a) maintaining a computer database for accumulating ideas for prospectively patentable inventions;

(b) systematically filing invention disclosure documents and/or patent
20 applications disclosing some said accumulated ideas that are new and/or related to accumulated ideas disclosed by previously filed disclosure documents and/or patent applications and accumulated in the database subsequent to said filing of said previously filed disclosure documents and/or patent applications; and

(c) systematically enabling persons, whom have entered into a membership as a prerequisite for contributing ideas to said database and/or for viewing said accumulated ideas, to view a given accumulated idea not respectively contributed by a said person immediately subsequent to the filing of a patent application for an invention derived at least in part from said given accumulated idea.

28. A method of managing ideas, comprising the steps of:

(a) maintaining a computer database for accumulating ideas for prospectively patentable inventions;

(b) systematically filing invention disclosure documents and/or patent applications disclosing some said accumulated ideas that are new and/or related to accumulated ideas disclosed by previously filed disclosure documents and/or patent applications and accumulated in the database subsequent to said filing of said previously filed disclosure documents and/or patent applications; and

(c) systematically enabling persons, whom have not entered into a membership as a prerequisite for viewing ideas in said database, to view a given accumulated idea not respectively contributed by a said person immediately subsequent to the filing of a patent application for an invention derived at least in part from said given accumulated idea.

29. A method of managing ideas, comprising the steps of:

(a) maintaining a computer database for accumulating ideas for prospectively patentable inventions; and

(b) systematically filing invention disclosure documents and/or patent applications disclosing some said accumulated ideas that are new and/or related to accumulated ideas disclosed by previously filed disclosure documents and/or patent applications and accumulated in the database subsequent to said filing of said previously
5 filed disclosure documents and/or patent applications; and

wherein the accumulated ideas are not contributed by employees of a proprietor of said database or employees of a party in concert with said proprietor.

30. A method of managing ideas, comprising the steps of:

10 (a) maintaining a computer database for accumulating ideas for prospectively patentable inventions; and

(b) systematically communicating online individually to persons, whom have entered into a membership as a prerequisite for contributing ideas to said database and/or for viewing said accumulated ideas, a listing of ideas viewed from the database by said
15 persons or a listing of groups that include ideas viewed from the database by said persons.

31. A method of managing ideas, comprising the steps of:

(a) maintaining a computer database for accumulating ideas for prospectively
20 patentable inventions, wherein said ideas include needs and/or requirements of said inventions;

(b) systematically communicating online individually to persons, whom have entered into a membership as a prerequisite for contributing ideas to said database and/or

for viewing said accumulated ideas, a listing of ideas contributed to the database by said persons; and

(c) systematically establishing contractual obligations by contributors of said ideas to said database to transfer property rights to inventions respectively derived at least
5 in part from said contributed ideas to transferees other than contributors of ideas of needs and/or requirements of said respectively derived inventions.

32. A method according to Claim 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 13, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30 or 31, wherein said ideas are systematically accumulated
10 prior to filing any patent applications for inventions respectively derived at least in part from said accumulated ideas.

33. A method according to Claim 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29 or 30, wherein said ideas include needs
15 and/or requirements of said inventions.

34. A method of managing ideas, comprising the step of:

(a) maintaining a computer database for accumulating ideas for prospectively patentable inventions;

wherein step (a) is combined with one or more of the following steps, to wit:

5 (b) systematically establishing contractual obligations by contributors of said ideas to said database to transfer property rights to inventions respectively derived at least in part from said contributed ideas to transferees other than contributors of ideas of needs and/or requirements of said respectively derived inventions; in combination with

10 (c) prior to filing any patent applications for inventions respectively derived at least in part from said accumulated ideas, systematically publishing said accumulated ideas;

wherein said ideas include needs and/or requirements of said inventions; or

15 step (b), wherein the respective contractually obligated contributors generally are not employees of a proprietor of said database or employees of a party in concert with said proprietor; and

wherein said ideas include needs and/or requirements of said inventions; or

(d) providing contingent contractual rights to given said inventions in a marketable format; or

(e) marketing contingent contractual rights to given said inventions; or

20 step (c) in combination with

(f) systematically establishing contractual obligations by contributors of said ideas to said database to transfer property rights to inventions respectively derived at least in part from said contributed ideas to a proprietor of said database or to a party in concert

with said proprietor; or

step (f), wherein the respective contractually obligated contributors generally are not employees of a proprietor of said database or employees of a party in concert with said proprietor; or

5 step (f) in combination with,

(g) systematically enabling persons, whom have not entered into a membership as a prerequisite for viewing ideas in said database, to view a given accumulated idea not respectively contributed by a said person immediately subsequent to accumulation of said given idea;

10 wherein said ideas are systematically accumulated prior to filing any patent applications for inventions respectively derived at least in part from said accumulated ideas; or

step (b) in combination with step (g);

15 wherein said ideas include needs and/or requirements of said inventions and are accumulated prior to filing any patent applications for inventions respectively derived at least in part from said accumulated ideas; or

(h) systematically enabling persons, whom have not entered into a membership as a prerequisite for viewing ideas in said database, to view a given accumulated idea not respectively contributed by a said person only after an established period of time
20 subsequent to accumulation of said given idea; or

(i) systematically enabling persons, whom have not entered into a membership as a prerequisite for viewing ideas in said database, to view a given accumulated idea not

respectively contributed by a said person immediately subsequent to the filing of a patent application for an invention derived at least in part from said given accumulated idea;

wherein said ideas are systematically accumulated prior to filing any patent applications for inventions respectively derived at least in part from said accumulated
5 ideas; or

(j) systematically enabling persons, whom have not entered into a membership as a prerequisite for viewing ideas in said database, to view a given accumulated idea not respectively contributed by a said person only after an established period of time subsequent to the filing of a patent application for an invention derived at least in part
10 from said given accumulated idea;

wherein said ideas are systematically accumulated prior to filing any patent applications for inventions respectively derived at least in part from said accumulated ideas; or

step (f), wherein the respective contractually obligated contributors generally are
15 not employees of a proprietor of said database or employees of a party in concert with said proprietor; in combination with

(k) systematically enabling persons, whom have entered into a membership as a prerequisite for contributing ideas to said database and/or for viewing said accumulated ideas, to view a given accumulated idea not respectively contributed by a said person
20 immediately subsequent to accumulation of said given idea;

wherein said ideas are systematically accumulated prior to filing any patent applications for inventions respectively derived at least in part from said accumulated ideas; or

(l) systematically enabling persons, whom have entered into a membership as a prerequisite for contributing ideas to said database and/or for viewing said accumulated ideas, to view a given accumulated idea not respectively contributed by a said person only after an established period of time subsequent to accumulation of said given idea; or

5 (m) systematically enabling persons, whom have entered into a membership as a prerequisite for contributing ideas to said database and/or for viewing said accumulated ideas, to view a given accumulated idea not respectively contributed by a said person immediately subsequent to the filing of a patent application for an invention derived at least in part from said given accumulated idea;

10 wherein said ideas are systematically accumulated prior to filing any patent applications for inventions respectively derived at least in part from said accumulated ideas; or

(n) systematically enabling persons, whom have entered into a membership as a prerequisite for contributing ideas to said database and/or for viewing said accumulated
15 ideas, to view a given accumulated idea not respectively contributed by a said person only after an established period of time subsequent to the filing of a patent application for an invention derived at least in part from said given accumulated idea;

20 wherein said ideas are systematically accumulated prior to filing any patent applications for inventions respectively derived at least in part from said accumulated ideas; or

step (m) in combination with,

(o) enabling persons, whom have entered into a membership as a prerequisite for contributing ideas to said database and/or for viewing said accumulated ideas, to view a

given accumulated idea not respectively contributed by a said person only subsequent to consummation of a respective nondisclosure agreement pertaining to said given accumulated idea; or

step (i) in combination with step (o); or

5 step (m) in combination with,

(p) enabling persons, whom have entered into a membership as a prerequisite for contributing ideas to said database and/or for viewing said accumulated ideas, to view a given accumulated idea not respectively contributed by a said person and/or to contribute ideas related to said given accumulated idea only subsequent to consummation of a
10 respective joint inventor agreement pertaining to said given accumulated idea; or

step (i) in combination with step (p); or

(q) enabling persons, whom have entered into a membership as a prerequisite for contributing ideas to said database and/or for viewing said accumulated ideas, to view a given accumulated idea not respectively contributed by a said person and/or to contribute
15 ideas related to said given accumulated idea only subsequent to consummation of a respective agreement not to file, without permission of a proprietor of said database, a patent application for any invention related to said given accumulated idea until after an established period of time subsequent to accumulation of said given idea; or

step (m) in combination with

20 (r) enabling persons, whom have entered into a membership as a prerequisite for contributing ideas to said database and/or for viewing said accumulated ideas, to view a given accumulated idea not respectively contributed by a said person and/or to contribute ideas related to said given accumulated idea only subsequent to consummation of a

respective agreement to disclose the identity of any third-party sources of ideas contributed by said person that are related to said given accumulated idea; or

step (i) in combination with step (r); or

step (r), wherein the persons obligated by said agreement generally are not employees of a proprietor of said database or employees of a party in concert with said proprietor; or

step (m) in combination with

(s) enabling persons, whom have entered into a membership as a prerequisite for contributing ideas to said database and/or for viewing said accumulated ideas, to view a given accumulated idea not respectively contributed by a said person and/or to contribute ideas related to said given accumulated idea only subsequent to consummation of a respective agreement to disclose the identity of each inventor of any invention derived from ideas contributed by said person that are related to said given accumulated idea; or

step (i) in combination with step (s); or

step (s), wherein the persons obligated by said agreement generally are not employees of a proprietor of said database or employees of a party in concert with said proprietor; or

step (m) in combination with

(t) systematically filing invention disclosure documents and/or patent applications disclosing some said accumulated ideas that are new and/or related to accumulated ideas disclosed by previously filed disclosure documents and/or patent applications and accumulated in the database subsequent to said filing of said previously filed disclosure documents and/or patent applications; or

step (i) in combination with step (t); or
step (t), wherein the accumulated ideas are not contributed by employees of a proprietor
of said database or employees of a party in concert with said proprietor; or

(u) systematically communicating online individually to persons, whom have
5 entered into a membership as a prerequisite for contributing ideas to said database and/or
for viewing said accumulated ideas, a listing of ideas viewed from the database by said
persons or a listing of groups that include ideas viewed from the database by said
persons; or

step (b) in combination with

10 (v) systematically communicating online individually to persons, whom have
entered into a membership as a prerequisite for contributing ideas to said database and/or
for viewing said accumulated ideas, a listing of ideas contributed to the database by said
persons;

wherein said ideas include needs and/or requirements of said inventions.

15 35. A computer readable storage medium(media), comprising computer
executable instructions for causing a computer(s) to manage ideas, wherein the
instructions cause the computer(s) to perform the method of Claim 34.